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ON CHANNELING RE: THE MONROE INSTITUTE

by Bob Monroe

A recent series of events has brought to the foreground a need to express definitively an answer to the question: What is the position of The Institute as regards the growing phenomenon called “channeling”?

The reply cannot be totally simplistic, yet we will do our best to make it so. Historical perspective may help.

It is extremely important to recognize that the process is not a new development in human consciousness. Identified in recent years as trance mediumship, it has always been a part of history under various guises, reaching back into antiquity and pre-Biblical eras. The Spiritualist Church has been and is still a training and operational source for such activity. The fundamentalist Christian “speaking in tongues”, also in current practice, has been suggested as an alternate form of the same anomaly. Prophecy, meditation, hypnosis, and certain dream states all bear a remarkable resemblance to the basic phenomenon.

The Institute is unique in that it has a freedom not generally available to those organizations deeply entwined in academe, conventional sciences, medicine, and industry. It can and does consider and investigate seriously any aspects of human thought and behavior beyond the parameters of conventional acceptability, i.e., the “babies thrown out with the bathwater”.

The Institute learned quickly the reason for such rejection: few if any at all, could be studied, measured and replicated by applying orthodox methodology. Trying to drink water with a sieve as a cup is a good analogy. A few drops are left on the rim which tantalizingly increases thirst.

Thus the Institute is on-going in its effort to find alternate workable approaches to its investigation. It also attempts to provide an interface of some sort so that its findings contain “something of value” to those in conventional environments. To this end, it merely reports without drawing firm conclusions. It may speculate from premises, yet takes no firm stand. The Institute does so because it realizes that, at best, it is operating from a limited and insufficient data base.

The Institute first encountered assorted versions of what is now labeled channeling as early as 1975. Since that beginning, it has conducted over 800 experimental sessions directly or indirectly related to such awareness states, utilizing a total of 156 subjects.

A number of such subjects have subsequently moved of their own volition into private and public practice of information gathering/dissemination via altered states of consciousness, long

before the current trend. How large a number is not known. Some have published books relating their experiences. Thus, it may be that the Institute has been inadvertently one of the progenitors of the current wave of interest in the channeling process.

A few of the Institute's experimental sessions have been released on audio tapes for public consideration. In all of these, the Institute made it clear that it assumed only a reportorial role. The validity, source, and intent of such data were undetermined.

To a great extent, this condition still remains, even more so with those whose history is unfamiliar to the Institute. At the very least, the Institute can affirm that measurable physiological changes did occur in those who produced successfully such phenomena in the Institute laboratory facility. This, of itself, is a significant point.

A psychologist associate of the Institute who has five patients with multiple personality disorders, has found in each a communicable alternative personality near-identical to that operating through the typical channelist. More implications, including the one that suggests all of us are potential channelers, each with our own ISH (Inner Self Helper). More questions emerge, few answers.

However, this does fall in line with one specific consensus among all of the contacts made through the Institute's laboratory subjects. Without exception, each "entity" has as an original purpose the well-being and growth of the living human individual through whom the contact was made. If others benefited or

learned from such counseling, this was incidental and relatively unimportant. None had as an avowed purpose or intent the delivery of a vital message for humankind in general. It was only through adroit and persistent queries by Institute monitors that a great mass of raw data/information was generated. Most of it still remains in the original unprocessed form, awaiting a means to codify, catalog and assess its value, if any.

From our perspective, the public channeler faces one of the most difficult tests imaginable. Because of the nature and profundity of the material transmitted, great attention is focused on the transmitter, the "television set", as it were. The problems engendered are monumental in terms of the human ego. When the difference between program and set becomes blurred, the quality and performance of each declines. Again, more questions than answers.

The Institute does hold that there may be many profound benefits arising from the wide and growing interest in the channeling process. More and more individuals are discovering that they, too, can "channel"; in so doing, each can become his own authority with his own source.

The result is of definite interest to the Institute and its membership.

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